

Recent Happenings in the World of Women

Uncle Sam's New Baby Buggy
Takes to the Open Road

AMBLING along a country road, parking for an all-night stay under the trees because the village garage is too small, and echoing to the tread of



scores of mothers with their babies throughout the day, Uncle Sam's first baby clinic on wheels is now making its maiden trip through Illinois. It is a big gray automobile truck—weight, 8,000 pounds—with an especially constructed body. It was recently purchased by the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor to demonstrate to the country that in matters of child care the rural mother can be effectively reached by the automobile bearing scientific equipment for examining children, a specialist in children's diseases going along, too. It is the government's version of that well known proverb about Mahomet going to the mountain if the mountain could not come to Mahomet.

The Only One
Of Its Kind

The Children's Bureau does not intend to inaugurate a chain of "child welfare specials" on wheels, but it is making a demonstration of this one in the hope that state organizations or state child welfare departments may be convinced of the feasibility of the plan, learn the cost of running such a clinic and appreciate the approximate amount of rural childhood accessible through this means. A "log" of the expenses, the unusual experiences and general happenings to the special is to be kept, besides the official records of the babies weighed and measured. This information will be available in a few months for organizations or states contemplating the purchase of such a clinic on wheels for their own use.

Statistics following investigations have already proved that the rural child in many states is more liable to early death from disease and malnutrition than is the city child. The old idea that just to live in the country meant good health and a long life for the babies was completely reversed by the data. The reason the city child's chance for health and life was superior to that of his rural cousin was traced to health education and baby clinics conducted in the cities and towns for the benefit of city mothers. This "special" is the way now suggested by the Children's Bureau for bringing the message of better babies and general advice to prevent infant mortality to the rural mother who is shut off from city sources of information.

Call Sent Out to
Countryside

This government "special" has its own woman physician and baby specialist from the Children's Bureau. Dr. Ruth McGuire has been assigned by Miss Julia Lathrop, chief of the bureau, to take charge of the moving clinic. Her assistant, a trained nurse, and the driver of the car (a man) complete the travelling staff. Dr. McGuire and the nurse use the trains to get from town to town, and the chauffeur accommodations aboard the "special." The car was sent through Illinois first because the Public Health Nursing Association there, in making a special campaign for country child care, asked that it go to several of the rural counties on follow-up work. Local committees of the former Children's Year organization are in charge of the arrangements wherever the clinic is to be stopped. These committees select the site for the clinic and send word through the countryside to all fathers and mothers that on a cer-

tain afternoon they may have their babies examined and get health ratings for the children. The mothers receive little slips to indicate their turn at the doctor's attention. The "special" is so contrived that dressing tents can be let down at



A busy morning at the travelling clinic. Dr. Ruth McGuire, physician in charge of the Baby Special, at work.

the front and rear, thus making the whole performance as private for the mother and little Susie as though the clinic were held in the downtown health centre of a large city. The mothers and children usually enter at one end and leave at the other to facilitate the constantly moving traffic, as it were, within the car.

The Children's Bureau especially hopes to demonstrate to the mother far removed from the doctor and trained nurse how such a car can bring essential knowledge. During the war many communities were left entirely without such trained medical assistance, and these same communities are still without professionals. These localities, added to the isolated sections which never did have a resident physician, make up a large part of the rural population in need of advice on child care. The "child welfare special" is a government interpretation of "baby specials" used by several state organizations during Children's Year in war time to arouse enthusiasm in the saving of babies for Uncle Sam. The specials usually went from town to town, not having the rural mother as the main objective. In one state the women obtained a discarded trolley car and carried the gospel of better babies wherever the trolley lines went. Others used the automobile truck, but this is the first one of its kind especially built for the government.

Interest Shown Even
In Threshing Time

Word has come back to Washington already from the initial run that the rural mothers are eager to gain such help. Woodson, in Morgan County, Illinois, was the first community to welcome the car. The reception given it there was enthusiastic. In spite of the fact that the threshing season was at its height, the government doctor and nurse were almost overwhelmed by the crowd of mothers, fathers and babies coming to the "special's" hospitable doorstep.

"Every mother," wrote the bureau nurse, "was more impressed with the opportunity of learning what, if anything, was wrong with her child than with the novelty of the motorized clinic. One mother who, through an error, lost her turn on the first day, and waited in vain all during the afternoon to have her children examined, returned on the following evening from her home several miles out in the country, so that she might not miss the opportunity."

Before the appearance of the motorized clinic in any community an intensive publicity campaign, with posters and data from the Children's Bureau at Washington, is conducted.

Tips to Women
Voters

AT a recent meeting of the leading Republican women of the State of Illinois in the Hotel La Salle, Chicago, Mrs. Medill McCormick gave the following suggestions to foster alliance with the men of the party:

"Be letter perfect in political technicalities and details.

"Study the methods of men in your community and ally your forces as closely as possible with theirs.

"Never lose your temper.

"Never let the men hold a meeting without a woman representative present. This is a working agreement between the men and women in the national committee.

"Above all, remember that the committee, working as a body, is at all times the vehicle for the Republican nominee chosen at the primaries, regardless of personal choice."

"Ladies' Aid" Methods
Have No Place in Politics

THE Ladies' Aid is a fifth wheel in the machinery of a political party, according to Mary Garrett Hay, who is looked upon as a leader of Republican women in the East.

Miss Hay, as treasurer and active chairman of organization of the Women's Executive Committee of the National Republican Committee and a member of the New York State Republican Committee, has decided ideas as to the roles for which the two sexes should be cast when the political stage is set for the Presidential campaign of 1920.

"Men and women should work together," Miss Hay said. "There is no place for the Ladies' Aid in politics. Men and women should serve side by side on the committees,

should labor together in the assembly districts, should together evolve plans, platforms and politics; should, in short, be political partners.

"Together both sexes can do better work than either acting alone. Men have had the experience, the long, practical training in political procedure. They have the business alertness, keenness, accuracy and understanding of the interrelation of things. Association with them will be beneficial to women. On the other hand, women have the strong humanitarian instincts, a love for clean moral standards and a passion for improving and reforming. Women can check men's predatory business tendencies; men can check women's visionary schemes. If the two sexes cooperate in a cordial, earnest fashion, we may expect splendid results.

"Arguments have been advanced against the political partnership of men and women," Miss Hay continued. "It has been said that women are too new in politics to put over their ideas, and that the men manipulate things to suit themselves.

"This may be true in some few instances, where the women serving on committees have had no training in club life, where they are placed in positions because they are the relatives of men with influence, rather than for the reason that they are fitted for the role they are to play. But it is hard to imagine for a moment that any one of the thousands of women who have been trained in club life or brought up in suffrage circles, who are accustomed to discipline, to dealing with people, to thinking out arguments to their logical conclusion, to fighting for ideals, will be hoodwinked by anybody.

"Because I so thoroughly believe in the cooperation of the sexes in politics I am continually urging women to enroll in the parties and to work for them. Let women enter the parties and work from within to reform them if they think there is need of reform. Women, like men, who do not stand aside and idly criticize, but who roll up their sleeves and work, are to-day the most useful citizens and the best patriots."

New York's New Citizen Makes Good
As an Officeholder and Paves Way
For Future Appointments

By Geraldine H. Murray

Albany, N. Y., Special Correspondence

WOMEN of New York State who were placed in big jobs by the Governor have been making good at a rate to insure appointments to other women aspirants.

The announcement of the Governor's appointments last spring carried the names of two women. These women were to hold responsible high salaried positions on important state commissions.

In practically all state commissions terms expire after a given number of service years. A Governor always has within his power the filling of a certain number of expired offices. Prior to 1919 no woman ever held the office of paid commissioner in New York State.

When the first nomination, that of Miss Frances Perkins to the Industrial Commission, was handed down from the Senate desk, state Senators were quick to say that their debate on the appointment was not because the Governor's appointee was a woman. Rather they dragged in arguments to the effect that Miss Perkins, by not taking her husband's name, had shown herself a radical, hence ought not to have the office. It was a blow to many a politician, and in various centres where patronage is looked for, when the \$8,000 job went to a woman.

Woman's Point of View Valuable

Miss Perkins was appointed to take the place of Louis Ward, confirmation of her appointment being made February 18. She is one of three commissioners in charge of the industrial code, and is supervisor of the bureau of statistics and information and of the bureau of mediation and arbitration.

"We have found a woman's point of view invaluable in the Industrial Commission," says Commissioner James M. Lynch, of Syracuse. "From the work which Miss Per-

kins has accomplished I am convinced that more women ought to be placed in high positions throughout the state departments.

"The Industrial Commission is one where more than 800 persons are employed. I believe, with the fact before us that between 700,000 and 800,000 women in New York State actually come under the labor or the compensation laws, it is advisable to advocate more women in the executive positions of the commission. We now have Mrs. Marian K. Clark in charge of the Bureau of Industry and Immigration, and Miss Nelle Swartz chief of the Bureau of Women in Industry."

New Methods
Of Efficiency

Commissioner Lynch's attention was called to the fact that Commissioner Edward P. Lyon's term would expire in 1920.

"Another woman on the commission would be possible, of course. Undoubtedly such an appointment would work out as well as that of Miss Perkins. I neither advocate nor oppose it just now, however. The appointment, remember, will be made by the Governor."

Mrs. Smith, wife of former Representative Charles B. Smith, of Buffalo, took the place of Willard D. McKinstry on the Civil Service Commission. This commission, while it is not so wide in scope as the Industrial Commission, allows more original work. Mrs. Smith was appointed April 8, one of three Civil Service Commissioners, at a salary of \$5,000 and travelling expenses.

Last week Mrs. Smith was in Albany, conducting examinations. That special branch of the work has been committed to Mrs. Smith's care. No such division was ever made before.

Fifteen county public health nurses came in one afternoon to be examined by the first woman Civil Service Commissioner. Each nurse had a personal interview and a record was made, in addition to one on actual training and ability to discharge the technical duties of pub-

lic health nurses, of Mrs. Smith's estimate of the woman's neatness, personality, resourcefulness, address and other individual qualities.

"Yes, that is entirely new," said Mrs. Smith. "I have power to carry out my examinations in whatever way I wish. A large number of questions are made out by the chief examiner and his assistants. I am trying to infuse into a set of printed examinations something which can be measured only by a human scale."

One Woman in
Every Department

"One of the chief aims of my service on this commission will be to abolish the separate lists. Any examination admitting both men and women ought to be followed by the publication of a complete list of successful contestants, with their ratings governing the order in which they are placed. At present two separate lists of men and of women are made out."

Mrs. Smith goes full length in her judgment as to the advisability of women in state commissions. She says that if Miss Perkins and she have established anything precedent it is that every state department ought to have at least one woman member to create a proper balance in point of view.

Carrying out Mrs. Smith's suggestion would be impossible for the Governor this year, because not every commission shows expired terms. That a number of "plums" are waiting to be picked is a matter of record. That women will be in line for a number of them goes without saying.

Some of the "Plums"
Available in the Future

Expiring terms, either in 1919 or 1920, which may be considered legitimate ground for women aspirants are among these: Seventh District member of the Department of Farms and Markets, now held by William E. Dana, whose term expires April 1, 1920, travelling and other expenses; George B. Burd, Buffalo, Commission for Blind, travelling and other expenses; Bronx Parkway Commission, William White Niles, term expires in 1920, \$2,500 salary.

Under the State Board of Charities, the following institution positions will be open in 1919 and 1920: One member board of managers, Home State Custodial Asylum; one member Craig Colony board of managers; one member Letchworth Village board of managers; three members West Taverstraw State Hospital for Crippled Children; one member board of trustees, Raybrook Hospital for Tuberculosis; one member Bath Soldiers and Sailors' Home Board; one member Winan's Relief Corps Home, Oxford; one member Elmira Reformatory; one member Bedford Reformatory; one member Albion Reformatory; and one member Hudson Reformatory.

None of these appointments has an actual salary attached, but all are responsible positions, held, to a large extent, by men, and with possibilities for more women members.

Four vacancies on the board of trustees of Syracuse University will exist in 1920, and no woman is now a member of the board.

James Byrne, of New York City, will complete his term of office on the Board of Regents of New York State in 1920, and here is one of the most important posts which are being advocated for women. The appointment must come through election on joint ballot of the two houses of the Legislature. No salary is connected with the position.

The entire personnel of the Public Health Council in connection with the State Department of Health must be reappointed in 1920 by the Governor, at a salary of \$1,000 and expenses. One vacancy on the board of examiners of feeble minded, criminals and other defectives must be filled by a general practitioner of medicine of ten year's experience. Six members of the board of medical examiners will go out of office in either this year or next, to be appointed by the Board of Regents. Six members of the Board of Pharmacy will be appointed also during this year and next by the Regents. Three members of the State Commission of Prisons may be appointed by the Governor in 1920, with salaries of \$10 a day and expenses for each day of actual service.

Land Army
Girls Harvest
Peach Crop

An S. O. S. From Orchardists in Maryland Is Answered

THE Woman's Land Army of America is at its busiest answering calls for help in getting in the peach crop. A unit of seventy-five Land Army girls was sent to Maryland last week. The rush of the peach harvest there is difficult to meet every year, according to report. And last year the shortage of men laborers made it necessary for the farmers to bail prisoners out of jail to get in the crop. Maryland prisoners are used to work the roads of the state, and the same system was applied to their doing farm work that was used for their employment on the roads.

This year, however, with the shortage of hired men and boys, the Maryland farmers sent an S. O. S. call to the Woman's Land Army headquarters in New York for girls to save the peach crop.

Another unit of twelve land girls will be sent to a farm near Newport this week for general farm and orchard work during the month of August. Ten others will leave soon for orchard work in Englishtown, Penn.

A campaign for girls to help in the September and October harvests is being started by the Land Army. Corn-cutting time and pumpkin-picking days are likely to find the Land Army units dwindled to only a few members, for most of the land girls are also office girls or schoolgirls and school or work will call them back to town in September just when they are needed most.

Workers in the Woman's Land Army have done some of their most important work in gathering the fruit crops. That one line and the way in which they handled it was enough to convince the skeptical farmer of their worth, according to headquarters accounts. This year there have been great demands for women to do orchard work. The farmers said that the women workers are swifter and handle the fruit with greater skill and less injury to the crop than the men did. It has been almost impossible to supply the number of land girls wanted for orchard work.

Problems in
Housing Factor
In Race Riots

The Urban League Comments on Chicago Conditions

HOUSING problems, which have been particularly acute among negroes with the migration from the South to the North, are one of the causes of the race riots in Chicago, according to members of the National League on Urban Conditions Among Negroes, with headquarters in this city.

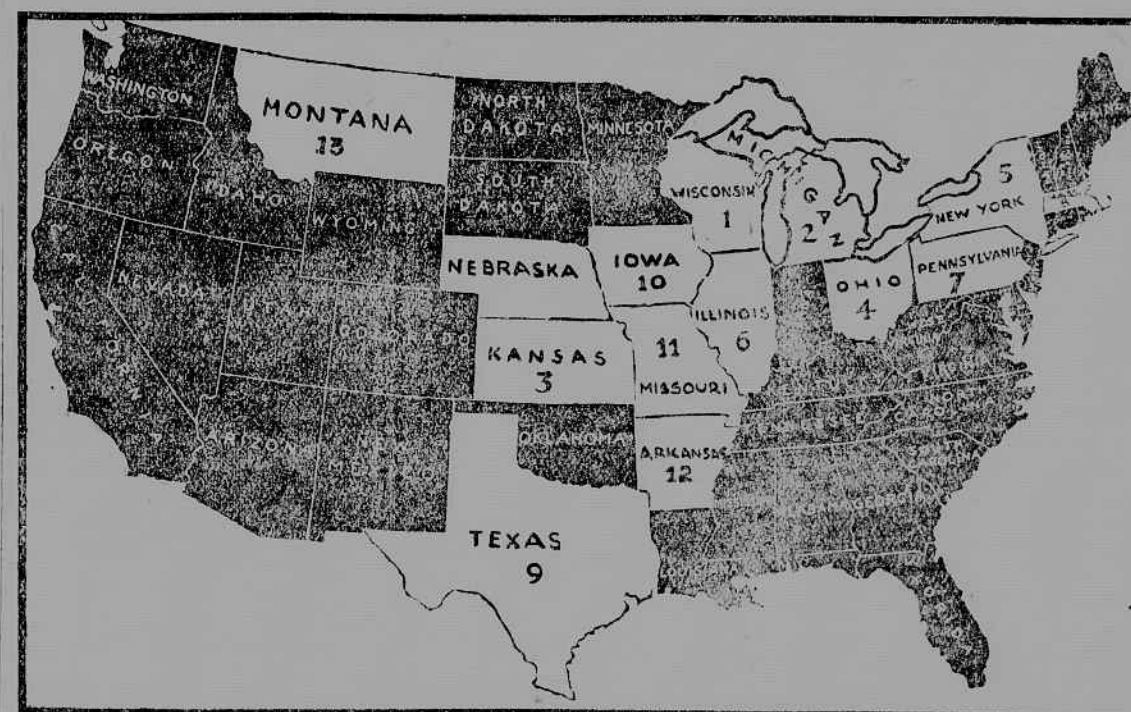
"The Chicago colored woman, in her desire to obtain a decent place to live, has doubtless contributed innocently enough to the much advertised Chicago race riots of the last few weeks," said Mrs. Lillian H. Turner last week. Mrs. Turner is a colored woman, a graduate of the University of Minnesota and assistant to the executive secretary of the Urban League.

"It is the colored woman, the homemaker, who has sought better neighborhoods in which to live, and who, obtaining these, has been innocently and indirectly one of the causes of the bomb-throwing lawlessness which in many cases preceded the riots. It is my understanding that these residents were not part of the mob. Still, it is true that the treatment and lack of protection given them inflamed those among them who felt the mob spirit.

"Housing conditions have been particularly acute among negroes because of their migration from the South to the North and their change from a domestic to an industrial life.

"Particular efforts have been made to meet the needs of the colored woman worker, so new to industry, for to her the change has been most radical. The National Urban League has devoted itself to this problem, which it has met to a degree through its various branches. To protect themselves against the results of overcrowding, the Urban League volunteers in Chicago and other cities, composed of groups of women, form block organizations, with home visitors, who give aid through talks on health, sanitation,

Suffrage Ratification Marches On



THE woman suffrage Federal amendment took up its ratification journey last week. Three states legislatures held special sessions to act on the measure, Arkansas, Montana and Nebraska. Arkansas, according to polls made soon after the amendment passed Congress, was considered doubtful. The women of the state have primary suffrage, but there seemed to be some question as to whether full suffrage would be favored. The session of the legislature held specially for the suffrage measure last week went smoothly and the amendment was ratified without debate. This widens the white belt through the middle of the map. Montana makes a decided break in the great northwestern section of the map and was the thirteenth state to ratify the Federal amendment.

child care and cleanliness of premises.

"Not being able to rent houses, the colored people are buying homes, as in Chicago, thus enabling them to better their own condition and furnish necessary accommodations for the new woman in industry."

Housing surveys have been made by the league in New York City, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Detroit, East St. Louis and Chicago, where congestion has been greatest, and much relief has resulted therefrom.

The National Urban League is stressing among negroes, as a necessary adjunct to industrial development and good citizenship, a decent place to live and a closer cooperation between the races of all social and civic agencies as a means of developing a better understanding and so preventing such happenings as those at Washington and Chicago.

Bits of News

MRS. EUGENE J. GRANT, chairman of music for the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs, announces that Mrs. Sherman Clarke, president of Rochester City Federation of Women's Clubs, has offered a prize of \$25 for the best patriotic song written by a federated clubwoman composer in the State of New York.

It should not have more than eight lines, exclusive of a refrain, which is optional. Composers may choose their own text.

Compositions must be received on or before October 15 by Mrs. Grant at 379 Washington Avenue, Brooklyn. Send name in sealed envelope with non de plume.

TUESDAY evening, August 5, 1919, at 8:30 o'clock, the Brooklyn Catholic Big Sister Committee will hold its first annual dinner at the Chamber of Commerce, 32 Court Street, Brooklyn.

"The committee is composed of Catholic women representing all sections of the borough, who are carrying on a preventive campaign to promote the welfare of their less fortunate little sisters," says an announcement sent out by Helen P. McCormick. "The regular monthly meetings of the committee are held on the third Friday of the month at the Children's Court. The cases handled by the Big Sisters range from cases involving young girls to family problems."